Private Airlines

3305. SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of goods and the passengers transported by private Airlines during the last two years; and

(b) the effect of these airlines on the business of Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Details of passengers and cargo carried by private airlines during the last two years are as follows :-

Year	Passenger carried (in lakh)	Goods carried (in tons)
1994	36.10	11,424
1995	48.93	89,359

Market share of Indian Airlines has gone down accordingly.

[Translation]

Destruction of wheat

3306. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of tonnes of wheat gets destroyed at the stations for want of maintenance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the length of shed at Kodarma station is less and thousands of tonnes of wheat is kept in the open due to which the wheat gets destroyed; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken to save the wheat?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, adequate precautions are taken at the time of loading and unloading of rakes to avoid loss of foodgrains.

(c) and (d). The Kodarma goodshed can accommodate only 40 four-wheel wagons including 10 wagons under covered shed and 30 under open platform. For this reason rakes are sent to Kodarma combined with Hazaribagh Road railway station. Some wagons have to be unloaded on open platform. However, after unloading bags are transported to FCI godowns to minimise pilferage and loss.

[English]

Transportation of Flowers

3307. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lack of facilities has been a hurdle in transporting flowers to the export markets especially European countries;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to introduce additional air services for the benefit of floriculture export business which is flourishing in and around Bangalore; and

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. Cold storage facilities and plug in facility for refrigerated vans are available at International airports at Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta & Madras airports and these facilities are being further augmented.

(b) and (c). For carriage of cargo including perishable goods like flowers, 'open sky policy' is in operation, under which airlines are free to operate flights from any airport.

Telephone facility in Barabanki

3308. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Uttar Pradesh and Barabanki district in particular which are yet to be provided telephone facilities;

(b) by when these villages are likely to be provided telephone facilities;

(c) the target to provide telephones to Panchayats and Panchayats in Barabanki in particular during Eighth Plan;

(d) the number of Panchayats in each district and Barabanki in particular provided telephones;

(e) by when the remaining Panchayats are likely to be provided;

(f) whether the telephones in each district and Barabanki in particular are not working properly;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the number of telephone exchanges in each district